

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JASPER COUNTY, MISSOURI
AT JOPLIN**

In Re: COVID-19

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-11

ORDER

This Order supersedes this Court's Administrative Order 2020-10.

WHEREAS, the existence and spread of the COVID-19 has resulted in the declaration of a world-wide pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has declared a National State of Emergency; and

WHEREAS, The Governor of the State of Missouri declared a State of Emergency, and issued a "Stay Home Missouri" Order effective April 6, 2020, through May 3, 2020. On April 27, 2020, Governor Parson announced that Missouri would enter an initial recovery phase beginning May 4, 2020 and issued the Show Me Strong Recovery Order, effective until May 31, 2020, requiring persons and businesses to comply with social distancing requirements, including maintaining six feet of space between individuals, but otherwise allowing all businesses to reopen with recommended safety precautions, and

WHEREAS, at 12:01 a.m., May 4, 2020, the City of Joplin entered in "Phase 2-Recovery" taking steps to reopen and recover while maintaining social distancing, and

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court of Missouri issued Operational Directives on May 4, 2020, effective May 16, 2020 to the courts of this state to follow before resuming court activities that have previously been suspended by the Supreme Court's prior orders. Recognizing that conditions vary across the state of Missouri, the Presiding Judge of each circuit court will determine, based upon the Gateway Criteria, as defined by the Supreme Court, when the circuit court will progress to Phase 1, Phase 2, and Phase 3, based upon local circumstances and conditions.

WHEREAS, the Court will progress to Phases 1, 2, and 3 only if local COVID-19 conditions continue to stay the same or improve, and it can implement sufficient procedures to ensure the safety of every litigant, juror, witness, victim, judicial employee, attorney, and other individuals involved in judicial proceedings, and

WHEREAS, if it is determined in the future that local COVID-19 conditions are worsening or that there is a resurgence of COVID-19 cases in the community, The Presiding Judge may return to a lower Operating Phase when necessary and appropriate.

WHEREAS, having consulted with local health officials and local judiciary partners, the Court makes the following findings based upon the Gateway Criteria:

1. There have been no confirmed COVID-19 cases in any court facility to date.
2. On May 4, 2020 the City of Joplin began relaxing group gathering restrictions and moving into a recovery phase.
3. The City of Joplin has had a total of 10 confirmed COVID-19 cases, 19 confirmed in Jasper County, and no deaths. Joplin has two hospitals and serves a four state area. Currently the hospitals have been able to treat all patients with COVID-19.
4. Consultation with local health officials has resulted in opinions for reopening the court and courthouse activities with precautionary measures and social distancing suggestions.
5. Consultation with local judiciary partners has divulged a great interest in reopening the court and courthouse activities.
6. Local conditions are improving sufficiently to allow the Court to progress to Phase I.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, effective May 16, 2020, Jasper County Circuit Court will enter Phase 1 with the following restrictions:

1. Members of the public who are not involved in a court proceeding will not be allowed to accompany court litigants to their proceedings and will remain outside of the Court Building.
2. Occupancy rates in courtrooms and jury assembly rooms are to be 10 or less whenever possible and operate under strict social distancing protocols. Hallways, courtrooms, and jury assembly rooms will be marked with blue tape to be used to demark six-foot distances where practical.
3. The use of masks or face coverings by attorneys, parties, witnesses, or victims is required. All court personnel are to use masks or face coverings upon leaving their individual office space and entering public areas. Those who do not have a mask will be provided a mask.
4. Extra cleaning and disinfecting will occur throughout each day and hand sanitizer will be made available.
5. Continue to use available technologies such as teleconferences and video conferencing whenever possible to limit in-person courtroom appearances to the extent not prohibited by constitutional or statutory provisions.
6. Jury trials will not be held.
7. All non-essential travel by judicial employees for work-related functions is canceled.

8. Individuals will not be allowed access to the courts who have been exposed to or are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.
9. Municipal Courts in Jasper County are governed by this Order except their applicable occupancy limit in waiting areas or seating areas that are not in their court area has an occupancy limit based upon maintaining social distancing requirements.
10. All attorneys should review the Administrative Guidance issued by the Court this same day for further information about scheduling and changes to the processing of cases that the Court is implementing.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, that effective May 16, 2020, until further order of this Court, that the following persons shall not enter the Jasper County Courts Building or the Jasper County Juvenile Building in Joplin, Missouri:

- Persons who have traveled to any foreign country within the last 14 days;
- Persons who reside or have had close contact with someone who has traveled to any foreign country within the last 14 days;
- Persons who have been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital or health agency;
- Persons who have tested positive, been diagnosed with, or have had contact with, anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19; and
- Persons with fevers, or unexplained coughs or shortness of breath.

Anyone attempting to enter in violation of these protocols will be denied entry by Court Security.

Any attorney or party shall immediately notify opposing counsel and the court if they reasonably suspect that a participant in any proceeding authorized by this Court's Administrative Order 2020-11 may come within any of the above listed categories.

If you have a scheduled appointment or you are otherwise required to appear at one of the offices or divisions of the Jasper County Courts Building in Joplin, Missouri, and you are unable to appear because of the restrictions listed above, you should proceed as follows:

- If you are represented by an attorney, please contact your attorney;
- If you need information about the status of your case, please consult Casenet or contact the Circuit Clerk's Office at 417-625-4310;
- If you are a prospective Juror, please contact the Jury Supervisor at 417-625-4362;
- If you are seeking an Order of Protection regarding adult/child abuse, please contact 417-625-4310;

●If you have any business concerning juvenile matters, please contact the Juvenile Center at 417-625-4300.

● For Jasper County Prosecuting Attorney matters, please contact the Jasper County Prosecuting Attorney at 417-625-4314;

●For Jasper County Public Defender matters, please contact the Missouri Public Defender at 417-627-0668;

● For Jasper County Sheriff matters or jail, please call the Sheriff's main line at 417-625-1601.

For safety reasons, these restrictions will remain in place until further order of this Court. Those individuals who think that they may have been exposed to COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider immediately.

If you have any questions as to this Administrative Order, please contact the Clerk of the Court, Melissa Holcomb, at 417-625-4310.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



Gayle L. Crane
Presiding Judge
Jasper County Circuit Court

Dated May 12, 2020



SUPREME COURT OF MISSOURI

en banc

May 4, 2020
Effective May 16, 2020

In re: Operational Directives for Easing COVID-19 Restrictions on In-Person Proceedings

ORDER

This Order supersedes this Court's order regarding COVID-19 dated April 17, 2020.

On March 13, 2020, national and state emergencies were declared following the classification of COVID-19 as a pandemic. In response, the Supreme Court of Missouri announced the implementation of precautionary measures to combat the spread of the disease to the public and the employees of the Missouri judiciary, while ensuring that essential services remained available and Missouri courts continued to fulfill their constitutional responsibilities.

Now, as the State of Missouri and local governments begin the process of easing stay-at-home, social distancing, and other restrictions, the Court enters the following Order and Operational Directives applicable to all appellate and circuit courts – including all associate, family, juvenile, treatment, municipal, and probate divisions. Effective

May 16, 2020, and pursuant to this Court's constitutional authority to supervise the administration of the state judicial system, *see* Mo. Const. art. V, §§ 4.1, 8, court activity in all appellate and divisions of the circuit courts shall be limited and restricted pursuant to the attached Operational Directives. Despite these restrictions, the primary goal and principal purpose of this and all prior COVID-19 related orders is that the courts of the State of Missouri shall remain open, available, and able to carry out the core, constitutional functions of the Missouri judiciary as prescribed by law and continue to uphold the constitutional rights of litigants seeking redress in any Missouri court. Each circuit court should work with local law enforcement, judiciary partners, and county health agencies to ensure that, to the extent possible, courthouses remain accessible to carry out time-sensitive in-person proceedings and other essential constitutional functions.

In all judicial proceedings, courts and judges are encouraged to utilize all available technologies – including teleconferencing and video conferencing – to conduct court activities remotely in order to limit the number of in-person proceedings conducted in courthouses. Any local, criminal, or civil rules that would impede a court clerk or judge's ability to utilize such technologies are hereby suspended for the duration of this Order.

During the duration of this Order, judges presiding over a civil case or matter may exercise their discretion to waive, for good cause shown, any filing deadlines or time limitations set though Missouri's e-filing system or by court order, local rule, or Missouri Supreme Court Rules 41 through 81. This authorization does not apply to any deadline or time limitations set by a statutory or constitutional provision. Each circuit and

appellate court should adopt measures to ensuring timely filing by pro se litigants who lack access to Missouri's e-filing system. Likewise, courts with public access computer terminals should devise procedures for allowing litigants otherwise lacking internet access to be able to use such computers for matters pertaining to pending litigation.

If it becomes necessary to temporarily close any courthouse during the duration of this Order, the presiding judge of that circuit or chief judge of that court shall develop procedures for ensuring the court remains accessible by telephone, e-mail, and regular mail to the extent possible during regular business hours. The Supreme Court of Missouri should be notified immediately of the closing of any courthouse, and notice of such closings should be disseminated to the local media, posted on the courthouse doors, and made available electronically.

Furthermore, for the health and safety of its employees, each court is instructed to post on the courthouse doors and make available electronically a COVID-19 Notice prohibiting access to the premises for individuals who have been exposed to or are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. The COVID-19 Notice should list necessary contact information for individuals not authorized to enter the premises to have remote access to the administration of justice. In addition, the COVID-19 Notice should advise of the social distancing, occupancy rate and other precautionary restrictions taken inside the court facility.

In-person Supreme Court committee meetings and judicial education seminars sponsored by the Coordinating Commission for Judicial Education are suspended. If

possible, such seminars and meetings should be conducted by teleconferencing or rescheduled to a later date.

This Order will remain in effect until rescinded or amended by order of this Court as circumstances warrant.

This Order is intended to be interpreted broadly for protection of the public from the risks associated with COVID-19.

Day – to – Day

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George W. Draper III", is written over a horizontal line.

GEORGE W. DRAPER III
Chief Justice